

**Canada lynx** (*Lynx canadensis*) A comprehensive survey by FWS, Forest Service, and Wildlife Conservation Society biologists in the area covered by the Northwest Forest Plan confirmed the presence of Canada lynx in the Oregon Cascades. On July 8, 1998, the FWS proposed to list the U.S. population of this elusive cat as threatened.



**Canada lynx**  
Corel Corp. photo

**Jobs-in-the-Woods** Participants in the "Jobs-in-the-Woods" program, which provides training and employment in environmental restoration to displaced timber workers in Oregon, completed the final inspection of the FY 1998 West Fork Agency Creek Culvert Replacement Project on lands owned by the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde in Yamhill County, Oregon. Failing, undersized, and poorly placed culverts at two locations were replaced by oversized bottomless arch culverts. The new culverts restored fish passage to 7.5 miles (12 kilometers) of suitable habitat for anadromous steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) and coho salmon (*Oncorhynchus kisutch*). This project is featured on the Tribes' website, which can be accessed at [www.grandronde.org](http://www.grandronde.org) (click on: natural resources, fish and wildlife, culvert project). The FWS contributed one-third of the \$88,374 project cost. This is the second successful fish passage collaboration between Jobs-In-The-Woods and the Tribe, which have reopened 18 miles (29 km) of suitable habitat.

Other Jobs-In-The-Woods personnel completed the final inspection of the FY 1998 Nelson's Checker-mallow Habitat Enhancement Project on lands owned by the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde in Polk County, Oregon. The site is one of four areas protected by a conservation easement between the Tribes and FWS for the management of Nelson's checker-mallow (*Sidalcea nelsoniana*), a plant listed as threatened. Approximately 10 acres (4 ha) of upland and wetland habitat dominated by invasive vegetative species were chemically and mechanically cleared, then seeded with native grass species. The Tribes also transplanted 90 checker-mallow plants, salvaged from another location, into an existing population. A new gate and cattle guard were installed to prevent cattle access from an adjoining landowner. At the same time, the Tribes also carried out a wetland mitigation project on an area adjacent to the enhancement/transplant location. This project required close coordination between FWS Oregon State Office contaminants, endangered species, and Jobs-In-The-Woods personnel. Nine partners contributed funds or technical assistance, or participated in the planning process to ensure successful implementation of this project. The FWS contributed \$7,815 of the \$18,382 project cost.

*Reported by LaRee Brosseau of the FWS Portland Regional Office.*

## Region 4

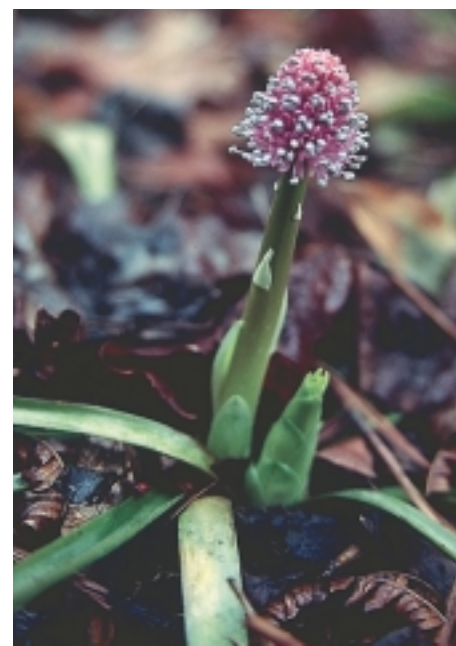
**Florida Black Bear** (*Ursus americanus floridanus*) The FWS has removed the Florida black bear from the list of candidates for Endangered Species Act (ESA) protection because four healthy populations remain on protected lands in Florida and Georgia. Collectively, these four publicly-owned areas support 1,000 to 2,200 black bears over 3 million acres (1.2 million ha). According to a 1998 status review, which led to the decision, Apalachicola National Forest and adjacent lands support an estimated 400 bears; Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge, Osceola National Forest, and adjacent lands together contain an estimated 1,200 bears; Ocala National Forest and adjacent lands are estimated to have over 200 bears; and Big Cypress National Preserve and adjacent lands have about 400 bears. In addition, a stable population of 60 to 200 black bears exists on Eglin Air Force Base and its surrounding area in the Florida Panhandle. Isolated populations are also found on private lands or

small tracts of public land. Altogether, the status review concluded that an estimated 1,600-3,000 bears occur in Florida and along the coastal plain of Georgia and southern Alabama. Past land clearing and development have reduced the distribution of the Florida black bear to 25 percent of its historic range.

*Reported by Elsie Davis, Southeast Regional Office in Atlanta, Georgia.*

## Region Five

**Swamp Pink** (*Helonias bullata*) The FWS New Jersey Field Office contracted a biological consultant to initiate a pilot program that involved contacting 10 private landowners whose property contained populations of the swamp pink, a threatened wildflower. In cooperation with the FWS, the biological consultant also developed a habitat protection agreement that provides an opportunity for private landowners to voluntarily agree to protect and conserve swamp pink and its habitat on private property. Such agreements may significantly contribute to the recovery of swamp pink since many populations of this species occur on private land. As the Swamp Pink Recovery Plan states, "Cooperation from landowners is an extremely important facet of protection for sites located on private lands.... Individual landowners will be contacted regarding the presence of *Helonias* on their property and the significance of this species. Management agreements and deed covenants will be established when



*Photo by Judy Jacobs/USFWS*